



Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 20, of the specification as follows:

The prior austenite grain boundaries can be observed after being subjected to a process developing a grain boundary such as an etching process for a metal phase sample of the member of interest. For measurement of the grain size, the average of ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)-defined grain size numbers (= average grain size of at most 8 μm) may be converted to obtain an average grain diameter, or the intercept method or the like may be used in which a straight line is placed on a metal phase structure in an arbitrary direction to obtain an average length between points at which the straight line meets grain boundaries.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 6, of the specification as follows:

~~carbonitriding~~ Carbonitriding was performed at 850°C held for 150 minutes in an atmosphere of a mixture of RX gas and ammonia gas. Quenching was successively done from the carbonitriding temperature and no secondary quenching was done.